

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 10, 2005**

A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 4:15 p.m.

In Attendance

J. DiPrete, C. Callahan, P. Guida, K. Forbes, G. Grove, M. Mancieri, and J. Gaines

Public Remarks:

Steven Fishbach from the Children First Coalition Status of members of the Board of Regents re: Status of hearing.

Chairman's Remarks

Congratulated Regents P. Guida and K. Forbes for

Attended the Middle School Summit; Mr. DiPrete recognized RIDE's Director of Office of Middle & High School Reform & Adult Education, Ken Fish for his work on middle school education.

Attended recognition of Jackie White, retiring Cranston School Committee person.

Forum regional meetings hold for high schools on the high school regs and the new diploma system.

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting of December 9, 2004 and January 27 and Executive minutes of January 27, 2005

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the minutes of December 9, 2004 and January 27 and Executive minutes of January 27, 2005.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Member to the Rhode Island School for the Deaf Board of Trustees

Regent Gary Grove presented the nominated candidate for approval to the Rhode Island School for the Deaf Board of Trustees, as recommended by the Trustees and the Regents State and Charter Schools Committee – Dr. Neil Leahey. Mr. Grove told board members that Mr. Leahey will be a valuable member of the School for the Deaf Trustees as well as a wonderful role model for deaf children. Mr. Leahey was then introduced to the board.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve The Appointment of Dr. Neil Leahey to the Rhode Island School for the Deaf Board of Trustees, as Recommended by the Board of Regents State and Charter Schools Committee.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Table of Organization

Commissioner McWalters presented the Table of Organization as presented in enclosure #5 of the Board of Regents package for February 10, 2005.

The Commissioner explained that the proposed Table of Organization provides some additional resources and restructuring beyond changing some existing titles. The two most important changes being the addition of a Progressive Support and Interventions directorship that will become the coordinating function for all of the intervention efforts as we go into failing districts and schools; and the change in the title for the Assistant Commissioner to become Deputy Commissioner. So, with the board's approval, there will now be two Deputy Commissioner's along with sitting directors to oversee the PS&I leadership team. The added position of Director of Adult Education will report directly to the Commissioner. Currently, the department is accepting applications for the position, great majorities of which are coming from people with a wide experience in adult basic education in other states.

Once the new PS&I Director is in place, School improvement and Title I will move under that directorship.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Table of Organization, as Presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

FY'06 Governor's Budget Update

RIDE Director of Finance, Carolyn Dias, introduced the department's new Coordinator of federal funding, Debra Kennedy.

She then presented highlights of the Governors Budget as follows:

- The Governor's budget adds \$39.4 million to the RIDE budget, a 47% net increase over RIDE's FY 2005 revised budget;
- It provides a \$4.9 million increase to the Department over the FY 2005 revised budget - a 32% increase over the Department's FY 2005 revised budget; also adds 7.0 FTEs. Additionally, it includes:
- \$150,000 and a 1.0 full time equivalent position for a new leadership specialist position to establish a principal leadership program;
- \$250,000 and 2.0 new full-time equivalent positions to improve student achievement in science and strengthen the state's capacity to support local science and technology improvement strategies;
- Recommends \$400,000 and a new coordinator position to support the implementation of a statewide curriculum;
- Provides \$1.2 million in FY 2006 to continue the implementation of the Comprehensive Education Information System to allow the Department to expand a statewide data collection system;
- consolidates the state's adult literacy initiatives in the Department of
- Elementary and Secondary Education under a new adult education director;
- Adds \$250,000 to increase services for the state's visually
- impaired children;
- Accepts the Regents' proposal to shift the emergency repair fund that
- supports the seven-area career and technical buildings to the \$15 million
- bond fund;

- Accepts the Regents' proposal to eliminate \$100,000 for the Amer-I-Can life skills training program; \$150,000 for the Infinite Potential disabilities treatment program; and \$200,000 for the Tollman High common planning and school reform grant;
- Accepts the Regents' proposal to eliminate eleven legislative grants and
- reduce legislative volunteer grants by 25% to achieve a total savings of
- \$133,877; and
- Assumes \$100,000 savings in the administrative costs associated with the state's school breakfast program.

State Schools

- Recommends \$14.4 million for Davies and one new full time equivalent position to hire an additional vocational teacher;
- Includes \$6.4 million for the School for the Deaf;
- Provides \$8.8 million for the operation of the Metropolitan Career and Technical School;
- Adds an additional \$5.2 million for Central Falls.

State Education Aid

- Increases State Aid by \$12.5 million;
- Does not accept the Regents \$8.0 million request to create an educational improvement grant fund to support school improvement and accountability activities and focus on schools most in need of improvement. Instead, recommends adding \$800,000 for Progressive Support and Intervention to assist schools that have been placed in "corrective action" status by the Department, which brings the total PSI appropriation to \$2.9 million.
- Reduces funding for All Day Kindergarten Program by (\$528,000) to adjust for updated data and textbooks by \$85,000 based on our recommendation.
- Includes \$800,000 for the RI Telecommunications Education Access Program, which provides Internet Access lines for all K-12 schools and libraries in Rhode Island.

School Construction Aid

- Recommends \$46.9 million, which is \$3.0 million more than enacted.

Teacher's Retirement

- Includes \$58.6 million to fund the state's 40.0 percent share of the employer contribution for teacher retirement costs, an increase of \$6.0 million to the FY 2005 enacted budget.

The Commissioner emphasized the importance of the Governor's proposed budget supporting the Regent and department initiatives. Carolyn Dias distributed highlights of the education initiatives supported by the Governor's budget, as enclosed. The group briefly discussed the dollars being used to support professional development and assessment and how the Gates dollars have been used. Regent Callahan suggested that the Regents/Department meet with state legislators to discuss the Regents education agenda. The chair expressed his concern about the "ear marking" of special interest money to targeted programs.

High School/Middle School Regulations Presentation and Update

RIDE Director of Office of Middle & High School Reform & Adult Education, Ken Fish presented an overview of the High School/Middle School regulations and new high school diploma system highlighting the regents' regulations, literacy, graduation by proficiency, the Rhode Island school diploma system requirements; knowledge and skills for all students; opportunities to learn; supports for students; and the peer review process. Details of the presentation are attached.

Progressive Support and Intervention Update

RIDE Assistant Commissioner, David Abbott and Chairman of the Regents' Progressive Support and Intervention Committee Patrick Guida gave members an update on the PS&I team structure.

Mr. Abbott spoke about the charge to each PS&I team as a policy advisory group to the Commissioner and the PSI leadership team responsible for setting long-range (5-10 year) directions for the PSI initiative and for translating this direction into medium-range development goals. Mr. Abbott outlined the roles and responsibilities of the teams in detail: i.e., to provide input regarding demands on RIDE infrastructure and delivery systems; review draft guidance documents, protocols, and forms for format and content; present feedback on impact of information collection and state-mandated accountability requirements on targeted districts and constituencies; identify potential sources of human and fiscal resources; build partnerships and broker connections with organizations and institutions that can provide needed expertise and support to state and district level

accountability efforts; and assist in the identification and pursuit of grant opportunities to support information and analysis systems; and reviewed the membership of the teams and the responsibilities of the leadership team – to review data analysis from PSI Work Group to prioritize needs in targeted districts, assess and approve Action Team recommendations for district-specific

supports and interventions, allocate resources among districts with schools in need of improvement, develop action plans for progressive supports, corrective actions and restructuring, and meet regularly to review the steps being taken by each Face-to-Face and corrective action teams in order to ensure quality, consistency, and fidelity to district expectations and indicators.

He also spoke in detail about the charge, roles and responsibilities of the PS&I work groups, action teams, and face-to-face teams.

Regents' Committee Reports

Chairman of the Regents' Administrator and Teacher Quality, Jo Eva Gaines gave the group an update on the status of paraprofessional certificates in effect January 1, 2006. Currently 80% of the instruction aids have passed the test or hold an associate degree.

Commissioner's Report

- Commissioner McWalters reported that the order on Hope High School has been issued. The department distributed a press release and held a press conference. He will meet with **Providence** Superintendent Melody Johnson early next week to discuss in detail the order including current Hope teachers "opting" in or out of the school.
- The name of the "Special Master" will be released on March 7, 2005.
- He will be taping a segment of "News Makers" tomorrow morning which will be aired on Sunday morning;
- Met with the Governor on the budget;
- Will be traveling to New Zealand with a team from CCSSO on international education.

Executive Session

No executive session.

Adjourn

With Unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.